

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

AMENDMENT TO THE LICENSURE REGULATIONS FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Effective January 31, 2001

8 VAC 20-21-10 et. seq.

D. Foreign language preK-12 -- American Sign Language.

1. The program in American Sign Language will ensure that the candidate has:
 - a. Demonstrated the following competencies:
 - (1) Understanding of native users of American Sign Language at a normal tempo;
 - (2) Ability to sign with a command of vocabulary, nonmanual behaviors, and syntax adequate for expressing thoughts to an American Sign Language user not accustomed to dealing with non-American Sign Language users;
 - (3) Knowledge of history, social structure and artistic and literary contributions of the deaf culture;
 - (4) Ability to interpret contemporary lifestyles, customs, and cultural patterns of the deaf culture;
 - (5) Understanding of the application of basic concepts of phonology (e.g., handshapes, types of signs, orientation on the body, sign movements), syntax, and morphology to the teaching of the American Sign Language;
 - (6) Knowledge of the national standards for foreign language learning, current proficiency-based objectives of the teaching of foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels, elementary and secondary methods and techniques for attaining these objectives, the assessment of foreign language skills, the use of media in teaching languages, current curricular developments, the relationship of language study to other areas of the curriculum, and the professional literature of foreign language teaching; and
 - (7) Understanding of and proficiency in English grammar, usage, and mechanics and their integration in writing.
 - b. Participation in opportunities for significant study of the linguistics of American Sign Language and immersion experiences in the deaf culture.
2. Endorsement requirements.
 - a. The candidate must have (i) graduated from an approved teacher preparation program in a foreign language--American Sign Language or (ii) completed a major in American Sign Language or 24 semester hours above the intermediate level in American Sign Language. The program shall include (i) courses in advanced grammar and syntax, conversation, and culture and (ii) a minimum of three

semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels.

b. Native users or candidates who have learned American Sign Language without formal academic credit in a college or university must complete the following requirements:

(1) Competency in American Sign Language demonstrated by written documentation of one of the following:

(a) Hold a current, valid qualified or professional certification by the American Sign Language Teachers Association;

(b) Hold a current, valid Virginia Quality Assurance Screening Level III Interpreting or higher issued by the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;

(c) Hold a current, valid Registry of Interpreters for Deaf certification in at least one of the following: Certificate of Interpretation (CI), Certificate of Deaf Interpretation (CDI), Reverse Skills Certification (RSC), or Comprehensive Skills Certificate (CSC);

(d) Hold a current, valid National Association for the Deaf Level IV or higher.

(2) Earned a minimum of 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels from an accredited college or university in the United States.

Individuals who are serving as teachers of American Sign Language in a public or accredited nonpublic school who hold a current, valid Virginia teaching license (Collegiate Professional or Postgraduate Professional License) shall be given a period of two years from July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2003, to meet the requirements for the endorsement in American Sign Language. Individuals not employed as teachers of American Sign Language as of July 1, 2001, shall be required to meet the requirements of this chapter.